

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method[[,]] for detecting presence or absence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger, ~~comprising the following steps which are performed during motor vehicle operation, comprising:~~

(S1) ~~observing using a sensor to measure~~ temperature of a heat-exchanger medium and at the same time observing further current motor vehicle operationally relevant parameters for a given time window;

(S2) determining an expected time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium;

(S3) determining a current time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium; and

(S4) ~~detecting using an evaluation device to detect~~ the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on the expected and the current time gradients of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium.

wherein method step (S1) comprises the following substeps:

(S1-1) measuring values of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium in predefined time intervals and plotting the time profile of these values; and

(S1-2) measuring values of the operationally relevant parameters at predefined time intervals and plotting the time profiles of these values; and wherein method step (S2) comprises the following substeps:

(S2-1) comparing the plotted current operationally relevant parameters with predefined values;

(S2-2) determining an associated current operating state in accordance with this comparison; and

(S2-3) determining the temperature gradient expected in this current operating state.

20.-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting presence or absence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger, comprising the following steps which are performed during motor vehicle operation:

(S1) observing temperature of a heat-exchanger medium and at the same time observing further current motor vehicle operationally relevant parameters for a given time window;

(S2) determining an expected time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium;

(S3) determining a current time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium; and

(S4) detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on the expected and the current time gradients of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium,

wherein method step (S4) comprises the following substeps:

(S4-1) comparing the current and expected time gradients of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium;

(S4-2) taking into account this comparison result with reference to a predefined threshold value;

(S4-3) incrementing at least one counter in accordance with the comparison result from substep (S4-2);

(S4-4) carrying out method steps (S1) to (S4) until a predefined counter reading is reached; and

(S4-5) outputting data signals when a prescribed heat exchanger is present.

23.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for detecting the presence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger, comprising:

~~the motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger having a heat-exchanger medium for a-~~the motor vehicle motor prescribed heat exchanger;

a measuring system for measuring the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium; and

an evaluation device for evaluating data for detecting the presence of the prescribed heat exchanger ~~wherein the evaluation device comprises having:~~

a memory device for storing values of time profiles of measured values;
a data memory for storing data including predefined threshold values and operating state data; and

at least one counter,

wherein the apparatus is configured to measure temperature of the heat-exchanger medium with the measuring system and at the same time observe further current motor vehicle operationally relevant parameters for a given time window in which the measuring system measures values of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium in predefined time intervals and the time profile of these values is plotted and stored in the memory device and values of the operationally relevant parameters are measured predefined time intervals and time profiles of these values are plotted; to determine an expected time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium, in which the plotted current operationally relevant parameters are compared with predefined values stored in the data memory, an associated current operating state is determined in accordance with the compared parameter, and the temperature gradient expected in the associated current operating state is determined; to determine a

Serial No. 10/594,078

Amendment Dated: February 27, 2009

Reply to Office Action Mailed: November 10, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 095309.58177US

current time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium; and to detect the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on the expected and the current time gradients of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium on a repeated basis using the at least one counter of the evaluation device.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the evaluation device is a constituent part of a motor vehicle on-board computer.

33. (Canceled)